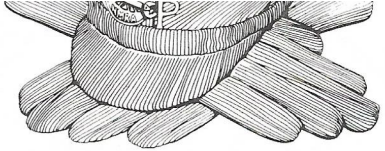
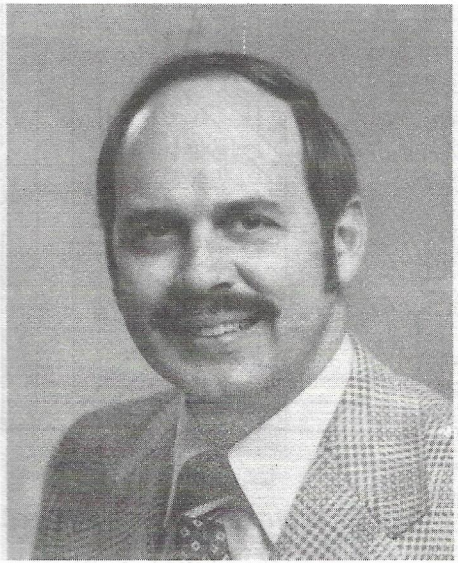


National Model Railroad Association



MMR #78, 'BEN' BENNETT

Master Model Railroader #78 is Arthur M. "Ben" Bennett, 47, of Metter, Georgia. Ben and his wife Betty have three sons who, while not avid model railroaders, do enjoy helping with the layout and operating trains. Ben is general manager of an independent telephone company and active in the affairs of the telephone industry.

"My interest in trains," says Ben, "probably began at about age six when my parents gave me my first electric train. I've been interested in train watching and model trains ever since." He still has his first MODEL RAILROADER magazine, a 1948 issue.

Ben became a real "model" railroader in the early 1950s when he purchased a Varney Casey Jones locomotive and a few car kits. He ran this equipment on some track mounted on a 2x4. This "layout" was placed on top of a couple of chairs at a college dormitory or stood in a corner when not in use. "Nine feet of straight track is better than nothing when you don't have space for anything else," according to Ben. Ben's present HO layout is a bit more substantial, occupying a 4½ foot by 10½ foot table. His Atlanta and South Georgia, and subsidiary Georgia Midland railroads ("Route of the Rusty Rails"), operate 1940 era up to present day equipment. In addition to modeling in HO scale, Ben collects Lionel Standard Gauge, pre-war "O" tinplate and old dimestore toy soldiers.

Ben has been a member of the NMRA since 1960. He has been very active in Southeastern Region affairs, serving in all offices including president. He holds Achievement Certificates for Cars, Structures, Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Association Official, Association Volunteer and Author.

Ben say, "I like all phases of the hobby, from fellowship to building to armchairing. There is no limit to the enjoyment that can be derived from the many-faceted hobby of model railroading."